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DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Dr. Charles Sabin Taft, brother of Alfonso Taft and uncle of the president, is one of the four survivors of the group that surrounded the death-bed of President Lincoln on April 15, 1865. Doctor Taft had been present with his wife at Ford's theatre on the evening before, at the performance of "Our American Cousin," which the conspirator, Booth, had chosen for his opportunity. And after the appalling tragedy had been enacted he heard a piercing shriek from the box occupied by the presidential party, followed by insistent cries of "water! water!" and then a shout for "a surgeon!"

Doctor Taft sprang to the top of the orchestra rail, and, announcing himself as an army surgeon, was

lifted to the president's box. His assertion of his identity was supported by his uniform—he had been drilling the men of the signal corps all day and had not had time to change his attire. Assistant Surgeon Charles A. Dale of the navy was already in the box, and Doctor Taft says that Dale's quick decision in having the dying president laid flat on the floor of the box prevented his expiring of syncope within a few minutes of the time the shot was fired. The coat and waistcoat had been cut from the prostrate figure in the search for the wound. Ere leaving the box the bullet hole in the head was found, but no blood issued from it then. The surgeons countermanded the order that the president's carriage should take the dying man to the White House. He

was carried, as the world knows, to the little house across the street, and the bed in the small room being much too short for his stature of 6 feet 4 inches, it was necessary to place the body diagonally upon it. (It is such details as these that are not generally filled in, in the picture of Lincoln's last hours with which the public is familiar.)

The room was soon so crowded that the officer in command of the provost guard cleared it of all but the surgeons. This officer was later relieved by General M. C. Meigs, who was directed to take his place by Secretary Stanton.

An examination was then made of the wound. The bullet, a Deringer, which had been remodeled to make it brittle, had split in two pieces as it passed into the brain, one part being lodged half-way in its progress through the brain, the other being found just behind the right eye, whose orbital plate was shattered by the concussion. These facts were ascertained not during the exploration of the wound; but at the autopsy subsequently conducted by five surgeons, of whom Dr. Taft was one.

A tablespoonful of diluted brandy was forced between Mr. Lincoln's lips. His breathing was labored, his pulse was 44, he was entirely unconscious and there was no sensibility to light in either eye, the pupil of the eye behind which the fragment of the bullet had lodged being excessively dilated. The body of the president was completely swathed in mustard plasters, and by the time this had been done the eyes were closed and the lids and surrounding parts were suffused with blood. Other surgeons entered the room and a further attempt was made, unsuccessfully, to give Mr. Lincoln a tablespoonful of brandy. No further attempt was made to probe the wound. The president breathed his last at 21 minutes and 55 seconds past 7 o'clock; his heart ceased beating at 22 minutes and 10 seconds past 7. Dr. Taft's hand was on the president's heart, while Surgeon General Barnes, who held the watch, stood by his side with his finger upon the carotid. Most men would have died almost immediately after receiving such a wound. Mr. Lincoln had lingered almost eight hours, from 11:30 until 7:22.

On one of her visits to the room during the night Mrs. Lincoln said to Dr. Taft: "Oh, shoot me, doctor! Why don't you shoot me, too? I can not live. I begged him not to go." When it was finally announced that Lincoln's spirit was irretrievable by any human art or healing skill, Secretary Stanton broke the impressive silence with the words: "He now belongs to the ages."—From the Philadelphia Ledger.

NEBRASKA STATE TEACHERS

This office is in receipt of a communication from A. L. Caviness, president of the Nebraska State Teachers Association, calling attention to the next meeting to be held in Lincoln, November 3, 4, 5, 1909. He assures us that school boards quite generally throughout the state are giving their cordial support by voting to allow their teachers a vacation, on full pay, on the above dates in order that they may attend the meeting.

Speaking of the association he says: "It is a voluntary organization of teachers and others interested in education. In no sense is it a labor or trade organization, for it does not advocate strikes or dictation to school authorities. It never meddles in politics nor does it promise its members assistance in finding employment or securing increased salary.

"It stands for improved methods and better school facilities, and its highest ideal is unselfish, devoted service to the future citizen. Surely the wide-awake, progressive teacher

who sacrifices membership fee, railroad fare and hotel bill ought to receive regular pay for the two days spent in attending its meetings.

"For the past forty years this association has advocated in advance every good feature of our present school laws and has used its whole influence to make them effective. It has brought the men and women engaged in school work in closer touch, inspired them with common ideals and aroused a high professional pride in a calling in which the great majority continue but a short time.

"For the meeting next November the executive committee promises the best program in the history of the association and the indications point to an unprecedented attendance. Men of national reputation will appear on the program, as Booker T. Washington, of Tuskegee, Ala.; Principal G. B. Morrison, St. Louis; H. T. Bailey, North Scituate, Mass.; Ex-President Elliott, of Harvard University, etc."

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These red corpuscles number 5,000,000 to the cubic centimeter; but it often happens that they become very much diminished in number, a condition known as anaemia, or leukaemia. There are also other circular bodies in the blood known as white corpuscles, but which are much less numerous than the red.

The red corpuscles are the stimulating and animating elements of the blood. They absorb oxygen in their passage through the lungs, and convey it to the tissues of the body, where combining with food elements absorbed from the stomach, it evolves animal heat.

Whenever the kidneys fail to properly filter the blood of its impurities, or whenever constipation occurs, the impure foreign matter collects in the blood-current, is carried to all parts of the system in the circulation, and is usually deposited in the form of pimples and other eruptions upon the skin.

Most of these eruptions appear upon the face, for the reason that the skin there is thinner than anywhere else. Many people commit the error of trying to cure the pimples or eruptions by the application of salves and lotions, which is a great mistake, as the cause of the trouble is deeper seated, and the disease is simply the outward manifestation of the impure condition of the blood within.

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